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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) Security Information REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Stendal 50X1-HUM

EVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                      50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT                     

DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 17 January 1952

REFERENCES                     

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     

REMARKS                     

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1. On 13 December 1951, the Tauentzien Kaserne on Osterburgerstrasse, Stendal (II 53/X 35), was occupied to capacity by about 800 troops and guarded by sentries who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Soldiers were seen drilling with small arms and training with 4 x 45-mm AT guns and 6 x 120-mm mortars. Vehicles

                     were identified departing from, and driving to the Kaserne. (1)

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2. On 14 December, the Hindenburg Kaserne on Schillerstrasse quartered about 2,200 troops. Guards wore red-bordered black epaulets. From 300 to 400 soldiers were seen drilling in the barracks yard, and 30 to 40 trucks were in front of the garages. Vehicles                      were identified departing from, and driving to the installation. Numerous units totaling about 500 men were seen training at the practice ground west of the Hindenburg Kaserne on 15 December. They included about 60 soldiers who drilled with six 76.2-mm field guns. Light model M-13 rocket launchers were noticed in the southern portion of the billeting area. (2)

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3. On 14 December, the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne on Friedrich Ebert Strasse quartered about 300 troops. Guards wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Except for two small buildings, all quarters were lighted after sundown. Light T-34/35 tanks and 6 SU-100 SP guns were seen in the barracks yard on 7 December. Vehicles

                     were identified coming from, and driving to town. (3)

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4. On 17 December, eight prime movers towing 100-mm AT guns were seen driving from Borstel airfield, west of the road to Osterburg to the western edge of the airfield, where troops subsequently drilled with the AT guns. Another 250 troops received infantry field training. Vehicles observed driving from, and coming to, the airfield

                     Twelve prime movers, each towing a 100-mm AT gun and carrying 10 soldiers who were

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red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and were equipped with small arms, were seen driving through Stendal on 21 November, coming from the direction of Borstel and proceeding toward Arnimerdamm. One man on each prime mover held a portable radio set on his knees.

(4)

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5. A rocket launcher unit with its commander Lieutenant Colonel Durgachov (fnu) moved from Altengrabow to Borstel airfield in October. (4)
6. On 17 December, the Hindenburg Kaserne on Schillerstrasse was occupied up to the roof by troops, most of whom wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank or artillery insignia, and some, black-bordered black epaulets with signal and engineer insignia. Soldiers were seen receiving individual drill with hand arms, practicing with machine guns, entrenching tools and receiving close-combat training. On 26 November, about 30 soldiers with black-bordered red epaulets were seen practicing in the training area just north of the Hindenburg Kaserne with a weapon which, from a distance of about 30 meters, looked like the former German Panzerschreck (bazooka). Vehicles identified departing from, and driving to the Hindenburg Kaserne
- (2) 50X1-HUM  
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7. On 17 December, the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne on Friedrich Ebert Strasse, including the adjoining restricted area, was occupied by about 3,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery or tank insignia. The billets in the restricted area also quartered uniformed women. Troops were seen drilling, individual training with machine guns and performing maintenance work on motor vehicles. Motor vehicles
- \_\_\_\_\_ were identified, driving to and from the installation. (3) 50X1-HUM
8. On 17 December, the Tauentzien Kaserne quartered 2,000 to 2,500 troops who wore black-bordered red, red-bordered black and, in a few instances, black-bordered black epaulets. Only a few soldiers were seen drilling, doing physical training or receiving training in small-arms firing. Vehicles \_\_\_\_\_ were identified driving to and from the installation. (1) 50X1-HUM
9. On 3 December, Colonel Panchenko (fnu), administrative officer, and Senior Lieutenant Zarafanov (fnu) were identified in the Hindenburg Kaserne. A new signal battalion was noticed in the installation. It had 90 doorsigns made in the city. In mid-November, the construction of three large bunkers, 30 meters long and 10 meters wide, was started in the Buerger Park, 100 meters north of the Hindenburg Kaserne. The bunkers were half-buried and had doors large enough to allow the passage of a truck. Two of these bunkers were completed in early December. (2)
10. No tanks were noticed in the billeting area of the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne on Friedrich Ebert Strasse in early December. Classrooms, which had contained training aids for tank instruction, rooms containing tank aiming equipment, and a building, which contained clothing supply rooms, were converted into troop quarters, and stables were converted into kitchens and EM messhalls. Two model 1943 76-mm infantry guns were observed being cleaned in front of a garage. All soldiers noticed in the billeting area wore black-

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bordered red epaulets. Vehicles [redacted] were identified departing from and coming to the installation. (3)

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11. On 3 December, [redacted] no new headquarters had moved into the Russian quarter on either side of Fichte Strasse. (5)

12. In mid-October, columns from Stendal were seen driving to the Tangermuende area and practicing there. Vehicles seen going from Stendal to Tangermuende on 10 October included: 20 caterpillar tractors towing 100-mm AT guns; 10 rocket launchers; and about 20 trucks carrying troops and ammunition.

[redacted] On 22 October, [redacted] 50X1-HUM observed from the southern perimeter of Tangermuende a unit of about battalion strength, which was equipped with amphibious vehicles, launching an attack from northeast to the southwest across the Elbe River, bypassing the southern edge of Tangermuende, and advancing toward Boelsdorf. Five tanks, apparently T-34/35s, were seen on the east bank of the Elbe River. No artillery support was noticed during the attack, but jet fighters flew over the area, however, without taking part in the ground action. The infantry battalion attacking on the west bank of the Elbe River was deployed in considerable width but without noticeable depth. Four light AT guns, 3 of which were towed by soldiers and 1 by a motor vehicle, were seen in the first assault wave. The guns accompanied the advance of the infantry, alternately taking up emplacements at intervals of 200 meters. No other heavy infantry weapons were noticed. The defensive force, which had dug in northeast of Boelsdorf, withdrew during the combat in a southwesterly direction toward Tangerhuetten. Some days later, [redacted] the meadows south of Tangermuende were heavily furrowed by tank treads. (6)

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13. Up to late November, soldiers in the billeting area of the Tauntzien Kaserne were repeatedly seen practicing aiming at a dummy aircraft and at three dummy parachutists. (1)

14. On 1 December, troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen entraining 25 trucks [redacted]

[redacted] and 5 special vehicles at the Stendal railroad station. (7)

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Comments.

(1) The information indicates that the Tauntzien Kaserne still quartered a motorized rifle regiment of the 207th Itz Rifle Div.

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(2) The Hindenburg Kaserne is definitely believed to quarter an unidentified motorized rifle regiment and, probably, components of the 693d How Arty Regt of the 207th Itz Rifle Div. In addition, the installation may also quarter engineer troops, probably of the Third Shock Army.

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The identity of the new signal battalion mentioned in the present report is unknown. The unit may have been a component of the 977th Inder Sig Bn of the LXXIX Itz Rifle Corps [redacted]

[redacted] elements of which may have been located in Gardelegen in mid-November 1951.

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observed six rocket launchers in the Hindenburg Kaserne in late August 1951. [redacted]. They may have belonged to components of the unidentified rocket launcher regiment of the LXXXI Ptz Rifle Corps which is stationed at Borstel. The AT weapon resembling the former German bazooka was probably part of the equipment of the motorized rifle regiment in the Hindenburg Kaserne.

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- (3) The tank units reported in the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne [redacted] in mid-December 1951 were not observed there [redacted] in early December 1951.

[redacted] the barracks installation at Staats was occupied by tank units with vehicles of the 207th Ptz Rifle Div in early November 1951.

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- (4) The information confirms the Borstel airfield installation as quartering components of the unidentified rocket launcher regiment of the LXXXI Ptz Rifle Corps and an unidentified AT artillery unit. [redacted] The assignment of a pack radio

set to each individual gun is more indicative of AT defense missions than of standard artillery employment. However, it remains to be determined whether the AT artillery unit concerned belongs to the 730th Gun Arty Regt of the 207th Ptz Rifle Div, which is carried in both Gardelegen and Stendal, or whether it is subordinate to another unit. In the first case, the unit should have 100-mm guns instead of AT guns. But the latter possibility is more likely

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- (5) The restricted area east of the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne, which also contains Pichte Strasse, is still believed to quarter the 1st LXXXIX Ptz Rifle Corps. [redacted]

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- (6) [redacted] observed a phase of the fall exercises which were conducted in this area and involved units from Stendal.

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- (7) [redacted] the entraining is believed to be carried out by engineer troops of the Third Shock Army from Barby. See [redacted] Comment (2).

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